

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 08 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 4 on page 5 with the following revised paragraph:

~~Figure 7 is~~ Figures 7A, 7B and 7C are a series of side, top and front plan views of part of
the embodiment of the invention of Figure 6.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 7 which continues as paragraph 1 on page 8 with the following revised paragraph.

Referring again to Figure 2, another raising and lowering means is provided. A rod element 70 is shown attached to the front guard element 52. Hinge elements 72 also are shown connecting the front element 52 and rear cover element 54. The hinge elements 72 are preferably spring-loaded hinge elements, wherein the front cover 52 is compelled by the spring element 72 into a downward and horizontal alignment with the rear cover 54. The rod 70 is used to raise and lower the front cover element 52. The rod 70 is held in a desired position by a locking means 74 attached to the shaft 14 of the prior art weed trimmer 10. By using the locking means 74, the shaft 70 can be fixed into any desired position, thus allowing the front cover element 52 to be positioned into a fixed relationship with respect to the rear cover 54 in any one of a number of positions. Figure 2 shows the front cover 52 aligned substantially parallel with the rear cover 54, thus forming a circular composite structure when the front cover 52 is in a "down" position. Or the front cover 52 can be raised up and stopped into a fixed position from the previous horizontal position wherein the front cover ~~54-52~~ is brought upward toward the shaft 14, thereby allowing the weed trimmer cutting element to cut matter close to vertical obstructions, such as trees or walls.

Please replace paragraph 4 on page 9 which continues as paragraph 1 on page 10 with the following revised paragraph:

Referring now to Figure 5, another embodiment of the present invention 90 is depicted. Here, a front element 92 and a rear element 94 are attached to a prior art weed trimmer shaft 14. In contrast to the embodiment of the invention depicted in Figure 4, the invention embodiment 90 shown in Figure 5 has two triangular shaped front and rear elements 92 and 94. Between the outer edge 93 of the rear element 93-94 and the outer edge 95 of the front element 9592, a large aperture 96 is formed on both sides of the weed trimmer assembly. The gap 96 may be desired by a user who wishes some of the materials being mulched by the cutting element 18 to be expelled to the sides of the weed trimmer assembly. It may also be preferable to have a visual gap 96 so that a user of a conventional weed trimmer 10 can see the results of the trimming action by the cutting element 18 as he progresses through his cutting applications.

Please replace paragraph 3 on page 10 which continues as paragraph 1 on page 11 with the following revised paragraph:

Figure 6 depicts a top plan view of another embodiment of the present invention, a composite closed dome structure 150 comprising a front cover 110 and back cover 130. At the center of the composite dome structure 150 is an oval aperture 108. The generally oval aperture 108 defined about a central axis *C* is configured for reception of a conventional prior art weed trimmer shaft 14 and formed by a semi-circular aperture 111 in the front cover 110 and a semi-oval aperture 106 in the back cover 130. A line cutter element 107 is attached at the periphery of the rear cover ~~104-130~~ for cutting the weed trimmer cutting element 18 at the end and thereby assuring a uniform radius for the reach of the cutting element 18. Line cutter 107 is preferably configured to trim a cutting element 18 rotating in a clockwise direction. In some embodiments of the invention, an additional line cutter 109 is provided to trim a cutting element 18 rotating in a counterclockwise direction. Alternatively, line cutter 107 may be a two-sided blade configured to trim the cutting element 18 as it rotates in both clockwise and counterclockwise directions. Figure 7 provides additional views of the front cover 110, and Figure 8 is a side view of the composite dome structure 150.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 15 with the following revised paragraph:

Figure 10 illustrates a bracket structure 200 according to the present invention, preferably fabricated from plastic materials. The bracket is preferably used to attach a front cover 110, ~~102a, 95, 92,~~ 62 or 52 to a trimmer shaft. A top cylindrical element 202 is defined about a central axis *CA* for attachment to a trimmer shaft 14 (not shown) within a wedge-shaped aperture 204, wherein the central axis *CA* is aligned to the engaged portion of the shaft 14. The attaching means (not shown) is typically a clamping means, such as an adjustable stainless steel band clamp, as is well known in the mechanical arts. The cylindrical element 202 has a height 206 and an angle 203 between wedge walls 205a and 205b. It is preferred that the height 206 and angle 203 are selected to accommodate both straight and curved weed trimmer shafts of various outside diameter dimensions. In one embodiment, height 206 is about 1.125 inches and angle 203 is about 120 degrees.

Please replace paragraph 3 on page 15 which continues as paragraph 1 on page 16 with the following revised paragraph:

A clearance box area 208 is defined by two side walls 210, front wall 212 and top wall 214. The clearance box 208 is intended to allow the device to fit about the top of the shaft 14 and rotary device 16 without engaging them. In one embodiment, the side walls 210 have a height dimension 220 of about 2.25 inches and a width dimension 222 of about 1 and 1/8 inches; the top wall 214 has a width dimension 230 of about 3 and 1/16 inches and a length dimension 232 of about 3 and 1/16 inches; and the front wall 212 has height dimension 220 and width dimension 232. The walls 210, 212 and 214 all have a thickness 215 of about 1/8 inch.